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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,001	02/06/2004	David M. Pepper	B-5073 620928-8	8987

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2828

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/774,001

Applicant(s)

PEPPER ET AL.

Examiner

ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,9,10,12-15,17-21,23-26 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,7,8,11,16,22 and 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9-17-2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: applicant has failed to define the structural relationship of the cited limitation "a layer of material" with the substrate and the reflecting layer.

Regarding claims 2-4, 6, 7,

It is not within the claim language, what is meant by "annular-like". Are the electrically conductive members annular or another configuration?

Regarding claim 18,

It is not clear within the claim language, how the lossy region is being electrically pumped, since the claim implies the gain region and the lossy region having a difference in electrical pumping relative each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2828

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12-15, 18-21, 24, 26, 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pepper (US 5,926,494).

Regarding claims 1, 12, 24,

Figure 1 illustrates a layer (24) having a plurality of gain regions (10) and lossy regions (12). Figure 2 illustrates the layer (24) disposed on a reflecting layer (32), which disposed on a thermally conducting element (28) [applicant's substrate]. Column 12 lines 46-51 discloses optically or electrically pumping the gain regions [applicant's electric fields]. Figure 1 also illustrates a cascaded amplifier stage.

Regarding claims 2, 6

Column 12 lines 46-51 discloses providing an electrode pattern for the gain regions similar to the optical pump pattern, which as illustrated in the figures resemble a ring [applicant's annular conductive elements].

Regarding claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 28,

The gain regions and lossy region being differently doped is inherent, as implied in column 5 lines 25-32. It is inherent for the lossy region to be optically damaged.

Regarding claims 13, 19, 26,

It is inherent for the gain regions to be doped.

Regarding claims 18,

Figure 1 illustrates a layer (24) having a plurality of gain regions (10) and lossy regions (12). Figure 2 illustrates the layer (24) disposed on a reflecting layer (32), which disposed on a thermally conducting element (28) [applicant's substrate]. Column 12

lines 46-51 discloses optically or electrically pumping the gain regions [applicant's differently electrically pumping].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 17, 23, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepper (US 5,926,494), as applied to claims 1, 12, 18, 24, and further in view of Hakki et al (US 3,838,359).

Pepper et al discloses in column 9 lines 56-62, discloses the layers (24) and (26) as including semiconductor material, but is silent as to the semiconductor material including GAAS.

However, the use of GAAS in for gain regions and lossy regions is well known in the art as disclosed by Hakki et al in column 1 lines 64-67.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 16, 22, 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is 571-272-1952. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MINSUN HARVEY can be reached on 571-272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2828

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